

REMARKS

The Office action of August 17, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

Claims 1, 3-21, 23-26, and 28-29 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 22, and 27 have been canceled. Claims 1, 9, 17, 19-21, and 23 have been amended.

The claimed subject matter of these amended claims help solve the exemplary problems, such as conserving space on the circuit board behind the faceplate opening, discussed in the specification, including page 3, lines 19-21 to page 4, line 1, and page 10, lines 7-14. These exemplary problems being solved by the claimed subject matter may serve to clarify the structural differences between the claimed invention and the cited art.

Applicants greatly appreciate the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the interview and telephone conference on September 30, 2004. In accordance with interview and telephone conference, the above-mentioned claims have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 27 and therefore do not introduce any new issues to be considered. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the amendment be entered.

Claims 1-5, 19, and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Duncan et al. ("Duncan") (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,517). Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duncan. Claims 9-18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Duncan in view of Sikorski. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, and request allowance thereof in the continuation prosecution application for the following reasons.

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

Claims 1-5, 19, and 21-26 are not anticipated by Duncan

Claims 1-5, 19, and 21-26 stand rejected under § 102(e) in view of Duncan. Duncan fails to disclose the features recited in these claims as amended such as a faceplate extension, having an unthreaded interior surface extending outwardly from said conductive faceplate, the faceplate extension projecting outwardly and originating from the outer face of the faceplate, adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening, and forming an electrostatic or electromagnetic waveguide.

In strong contrast to the recited feature of a faceplate extension projecting outwardly and originating from the outer face, adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening, Duncan expressly teaches using a faceplate extension that originates behind and projects from within the faceplate opening and therefore is not adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening (see FIGs. 1, 3; col. 8, lines 20-23). Particularly, Duncan states that "...when properly positioned, the grounding springs 42 that surround the outer periphery of pipe 12 (of the EMI shield 10) at end 16 engage with an inner edge of the aperture 48 (of the tailstock 46)." (see FIGs. 1, 3; col. 8, lines 20-23).

Duncan expressly teaches using a faceplate extension with connecting members (the grounding springs 42) that engage the inner edge of the faceplate opening (aperture 48) to produce a faceplate extension that originates behind the faceplate and is not adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening in contrast to a faceplate extension projecting outwardly and originating from the outer face, adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening as recited.

Further, as above-mentioned, Duncan's teaching of a faceplate extension originating behind the faceplate takes up space on the circuit board in strong contrast to an exemplary problem being solved by the claimed invention, namely conservation of space on the circuit board behind the faceplate.

Duncan expressly teaches a contrasting arrangement for the faceplate extension making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited reference.

Claims 6-8 are not made obvious by Duncan

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under § 103(a) in view of Duncan. As contended above, the recited feature of a faceplate extension projecting outwardly and originating from the outer face, adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening is significantly distinct from Duncan's disclosure of a faceplate extension originating behind and not adjacently around the

faceplate opening making the claimed invention non-obvious from the cited reference.

Claims 9-18, and 20 are not made obvious by Duncan and Sikorsky

Claims 9-18, and 20 stand rejected under § 103(a) in view of Duncan and Sikorsky. As contended above, the recited feature of a faceplate extension projecting outwardly and originating from the outer face, adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening is significantly distinct from Duncan's disclosure of a faceplate extension originating behind the faceplate and not being adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening. Further, Sikorsky discloses a shielded optical fiber adaptor that also extends from behind and within the faceplate opening producing an extension that is not originating from and adjacently around the faceplate opening in contrast to the recited feature.

Duncan and Sikorsky, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose a faceplate extension projecting outwardly and originating from the outer face, adjacently around the periphery of the faceplate opening as recited making the claimed invention patentably distinct and non-obvious from the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the remaining claims are allowable and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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